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Content

	Two Teachers from Bihar honoured with 'National Teacher Award'	3
•		
•	Famous Folk Artist Padmashree Ramchandra Manjhi Passes Away	
•	The Country's Biggest Rubber Dam	. 4
•	BSPHCL Signs Agreement with REC Ltd.	. 4
•	Ashoka Inscription and Two other Sites in Bihar under Consideration for ASI Notification	5
•	Investment Proposal from Rice to Sugar in Bihar, Plan to set up 20 New Units	5
•	State Government reduced VAT at Gaya Airport	. 6
•	Automatic Radar Gun will be Installed on all NH of Bihar	. 6
•	New Eco-Tourism Spots will be Built in Bihar	7
•	East Champaran got First Rank in Second Dose of Covid Vaccination	7
•	Patna Ranks Second among Cities with Warehousing (warehouse) availability	7
•	Bihar Investors Meet-2022	. 8

Two Teachers from Bihar honoured with 'National Teacher Award'

Why in News?

On the occasion of Teacher's Day on September 5, 2022, President Draupadi Murmu honoured Saurav suman and Nishi Kumari, teachers from Bihar, with the National Teacher Award-2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Kev Points

- ➤ It is noteworthy that this year 46 teachers from across the country were selected for the National Teacher Award, including two teachers from Bihar.
- A check of Rs 50,000, a silver medal and a certificate were presented to both the teachers by the President.
- > These two teachers of Bihar who were awarded the National Teacher Award-2022 include Nishi Kumari from Mahadev Higher Secondary School Khushrupur, Patna and Saurav Suman from Lalit Narayan Laxmi Narayan Project Girls' High School Triveniganj, Supaul.
- While Supaul's teacher Saurav Suman has worked to strengthen the technical sector in government schools of the state, Patna's teacher Nishi Kumari has made a special contribution on girl's health and sanitary pads.
- It is worth noting that on Teacher's Day, the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education organizes a national function every year on 5th September, in which national awards are given to the best teachers of the country.
- Teachers are selected for the awards in a transparent manner through an online three-tier selection process.
- The objective of conferring the National Award to Teachers is to underline the unique contribution of the teachers of the country and to honour such teachers, who have not only improved the quality of school education but also enriched the lives of their students with their commitment and hard work.

Doorstep Delivery of Maps

Why in News?

On September 6, 2022, Minister of Revenue and Land Reforms Department of Bihar Alok Mehta inaugurated the door step delivery of maps of the Directorate of Land Records and Survey at the Revenue (Survey) Training Institute located in Shastrinagar.

Key Points

- > In view of the importance of correct maps in resolving land disputes, door step delivery has been started to provide digital maps. The people of Bihar will now get the map of the land sitting at home.
- In this way, Bihar has become the first state in the country to implement the system of ordering online maps of villages and towns.
- Minister Alok Mehta said that this will help in removing the problem of land dispute and will reduce unnecessary hassles regarding availability of maps. In this system the possibility of unnecessary delay and corruption will also be eliminated.
- To get the map, one has to go to the directorate's site dlrs.bihar.gov.in and click on the door step delivery icon. Then you will have to order and pay for the map of your fun online. One can order 5 sheets in one container at a time. The map will be packed in a round and sturdy box of code.
- One sheet map will be available for Rs 285. This includes container fees and postage. For two sheets (Map), Rs 435 will have to be paid for three sheets, Rs 585 for four sheets and Rs 935 for five sheets.
- Payment will be done through payment gateway. All major banks are connected with this facility. Payment can be made through Debit/Credit cards of all major banks. Banks will not charge a separate charge for this service. Along with the payment, the acknowledgment receipt will be displayed on the computer screen, which can be preserved for future reference.
- MoU has been signed with the Department of Posts for door step delivery. The maps will be delivered by speed post. It is mandatory to put a bar code generated sticker on every container. Postage charges will be according to the weight of the map. The cost of one container is Rs 35 and maximum 5 maps will be packed in one container. The postage fee for a container with 3 maps is fixed at Rs 100 and for more than three maps at Rs 150.
- People can order a total of 1,35,865 maps available in Bihar Survey Office, Gulzarbagh by applying online. In this, the maximum number of 73,086 maps are related to Cadastral Survey. The number of maps related to revision survey is 49,711 and the total number of maps of consolidation is 7821.



Famous Folk Artist Padmashree Ramchandra Manjhi Passes Away

Why In News?

On September 7, 2022, renowned folk artist and Padma Shri awardee Ramchandra Manjhi from Saran district of Bihar passed away at the age of 96 at IGIMS Hospital in Patna.

Key Points

- Ramchandra Manjhi, who received the Padma Shri award, was famous for 'Launda Naach'. Manjhi has been an associate of Bhikhari Thakur, who is called Shakespeare of Bhojpuri. Manjhi, who rose to international fame with launda naach, was a member of the naach troupe for 30 years.
- Along with Panshree, he also got the honor of Launda Naach. Apart from this, many other awards including Sangeet Natak Akademi were honored. He gave a different identity to the folk culture of Bihar.
- Significantly, 'Launda Nach' of Bihar is one of the old and very famous folk dances of Bihar. In this, the boy dances like a girl wearing makeup and clothes. People organize launda dance on any auspicious occasion. At present, this folk dance has been marginalized from among the society. There are only a few launda dance troupes left, which are keeping this genre alive.

The Country's Biggest Rubber Dam

Why In News?

On September 8, 2022, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Bihar's first and country's longest rubber dam 'Gayaji Dam' built on falgu river in Gaya district.

Key Points

- Built at a cost of Rs 312 crore, the dam uses rubber instead of concrete. It is also environmentally friendly. It is three meters high and 411 meters long. It has six spans of 60-65 meters in length.
- Rubber sheets have been installed under the river in a length of about one thousand meters. Its diaphragm

- is three hundred meters. Dam is like a balloon. Its rubber tube has an automatic system for filling and removing air. Balloon air can be removed when the water is high. This will prevent and release water as per the need.
- According to the information, the Austrian company and the Hyderabad-based agency have prepared it together. The rubber dam is made of 17 mm thick rubber. It is bulletproof. At the same time, it is being claimed that it will not deteriorate for one hundred years.
- Built in Gaya, a famous pilgrimage site of Hindus and Buddhism, this rubber dam will keep water in the Falgu river throughout the year. This will facilitate people in bathing, pind daan and tarpan.
- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had laid the foundation stone on September 22, 2020. Its construction was then targeted in October 2023. But it was completed in 2022.

BSPHCL Signs Agreement with REC Ltd.

Why In News?

On September 12, 2022, Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited (BSPHCL) signed an agreement with REC Limited in a major step to strengthen the power infrastructure.

Key Points

- MoU was signed with REC Limited under the Revitalization Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to improve the operational efficiency and financial stability of Power Distribution Companies (Discoms) and cut down on aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses.
- Sanjeev Hans, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), BSPHCL signed agreement with Joginath Pradhan, Chief Program Manager, REC Limited in the presence of Managing Directors of North Bihar Vidyut Vitran Company Limited (NBPDCL) and Dakshin Bihar Vidyut Vitran Company Limited (SBPDCL). signed at.
- ➤ NBPDCL and SBPDCL will get Rs 6,625 crore under the agreement. Apart from this, Rs 1,993 crore will be available for the work of smart prepaid meters. Of the total allocated funds, 60% will come from the center and 40% from the state government.



- Under RDSS, NBPDCL will get Rs 3,100 crore and SBPDCL Will get Rs 3,525 crore to strengthen infrastructure. NBPDCL will be allocated Rs 969 crore and SBPDCL Rs 1,024 crore for smart prepaid meter work.
- 400 crore will be allocated to power distribution companies (discoms) to cut AT&C losses by March 2026 for Information Technology Operational Technology (ITOT).
- According to Sanjeev Hans the infrastructure will be strengthened with the allocation of funds. He informed that the target is to reduce AT&C from 25.74% (2020-21) of NBPDCL to 16% by 2025 and from 36.80% (2020-21) to 20% for SBPDCL in the next three years.

Ashoka Inscription and Two other Sites in Bihar under Consideration for ASI Notification

Why In News?

On September 19, 2022, archaeological survey of India (ASI) officials said that two monuments from Bihar — the Ashoka inscription and two ancient mounds — are currently under consideration as per the status of the centrally-protected monuments, which will be decided soon.

Key Points

- The Patna circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had sent these recommendations for notification over a period of 14 years.
- The Ashoka inscription site is in Rohtas district and the recommendation for its ASI notification was sent in 2008, followed by recommendations in 2010 and 2021, as well as listing of two ancient mounds in Bihar as centrally-protected monuments.
- The recommendation for a mound in the Jangalistan region near the Vikramshila site in Bhagalpur district was sent in 2010. It was sent in 2021 to list Raniwas mound in a different part of Bihar.
- At present, 70 sites in Bihar are with the ASI, which works under its Patna circle. It is one of the oldest regional circles in India.
- Sources at the ASI headquarters in Delhi said these recommendations sent by Patna circle are under

- process. Proposals or recommendations sent in the form of careful documents by the regional circles are examined by a team at the ASI headquarters before taking a final decision. First a provisional notification is issued and then a final gazette notification is issued.
- There are a total of 3,693 heritage sites in India protected by the ASI. Many of these are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as the Taj Mahal of Agra, the Red Fort of Delhi, the Qutub Minar and the Tomb of Humayun and the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University in Bihar.
- Officials said the Shiva temple in Gaya was notified by the ASI in 1996, since then no new site in Bihar has been brought under the ASI's purview.

Investment Proposal from Rice to Sugar in Bihar, Plan to set up 20 New Units

Why In News?

According to information received from media sources on September 20, 2022, new proposals worth Rs 529 crore have come for investment in the field of food processing in Bihar. There is a plan to install 20 new units in these proposals. The State Investment Promotion Council has given its preliminary approval.

Key Points

- > These proposals have come at the 41st meeting of the State Investment Promotion Council. An investment of Rs 419 crore is proposed to set up seven major food processing units. The proposed food processing unit in Vaishali is likely to attract an investment of Rs 213 crore. The unit will manufacture ketch-up, tomato paste and nutritional powder.
- Gopalganj-based Vishnu Sugar Mills Limited will spend Rs 90 crore on molasses-based ethanol distillery, Machhaulia Sugar Industries in West Champaran will also spend Rs 27 crore on molasses best distillery plant.
- Apart from this, a sugar mill plant will be set up at Harinagar Sugar Mills Limited, West Champaran at a cost of Rs 80 crore. Similarly, factories for various types of sattu and fruit products are proposed in Aurangabad Industrial Area.
- Among other proposals related to food processing, there are proposals to set up 13 rice mills with an



- investment of Rs 110 crore. These units are associated with Arva and Usna rice. All these rice mills are to be set up at Sitamarhi, Vidyanagar in Madhubani, Kasipur Belwa in Kishanganj, Karghar in Rohtas, Kherhari in Aurangabad, Banka, West Champaran, Jagdishpur in Bhojpur and Purnia.
- There are also proposals of more than Rs 46 crore to set up textile and leather units in the Investment Promotion Council. Jute yarn, fiber products, sewing, weaving and embroidery units are proposed to be set up at Sultanganj in Kishanganj. Similarly, first clearance has been given for textile and leather units in Bhagalpur, Purnia, Banka and East Champaran.

Other important facts:

- There are proposals to set up units in Muzaffarpur, Mohanpur, Bhagalpur, Patna, Begusarai for manufacturing fly ash bricks. However, an investment of only Rs 7 crore is proposed on this.
- Apart from this, small scale industries of PVC pipes etc. are to be set up in Purnia, Patna and Muzaffarpur districts.
- There are proposals to set up 21 more units worth about Rs 177 crore. General manufacturing, renewable energy, floor mill, paper cups and plates, cold storage, warehouse, machine manufacturing, hospital, oxygen plant and wooden furniture units are to be set up.
- In the 41st meeting of the Investment Promotion Council, 53 proposals worth Rs 765 crore were approved for first clearance, 11 proposals worth Rs 164 crore were given financial clearance and applications for first clearance of 10 units were rejected.

State Government reduced VAT at Gaya Airport

Why In News?

According to information received from the airport office on September 20, 2022, the state government has reduced its share of VAT charge from 29 percent to just four percent, giving a big facility to the aircraft to take fuel at Gaya airport.

Key Points

The state government has taken this decision to increase the number of domestic and foreign tourists in Gaya and Bodh Gaya and to increase the movement

- of more and more passengers through Gaya Airport. This will also benefit Gaya and Bodh Gaya financially. Gaya airport will also benefit from the increase in aircraft movement and will increase the income in the form of landing charges of aircraft.
- With this decision of the state government, the aircraft will be able to get cheaper fuel at Gaya airport and due to this, the movement of other routes will also increase to take fuel here. Passenger movement may also increase mainly with domestic flights reaching Gaya airport.
- Most of the aircraft, which are also moving through other routes, will land at Gaya airport to get cheap fuel and decide the route of Gaya airport. This will benefit passengers coming to Gaya and going out of Gaya. The movement of domestic aircraft will increase and Gaya airport will be connected to many big cities of the country. Even flights flying from Bangkok to Kolkata would prefer the route via Gaya.
- By taking fuel in Gaya, aircraft will save at least 20 thousand rupees on one thousand liters of fuel. Usually, any aircraft takes close to two thousand liters of fuel at the time of fuel refilling. In this way, airlines will save at least 40 thousand rupees in taking fuel once. To take advantage of this, now flights flying from Chennai to Delhi and Delhi to Kolkata will also prefer the route of Gaya Airport.

Automatic Radar Gun will be Installed on all NH of Bihar

Why In News?

According to the information received from the media on September 21, 2022, to reduce the over speed on the National Highway (NH) in Bihar, eight to 10 km on all NHs. An automatic radar gun will be installed on the road, so that online fines can be imposed on every vehicle speeding above the stipulated speed limit.

Key Points

After levying the fine, the vehicle owners will be informed online, i.e. through SMS. Radar will be installed on all those NHs where accidents are happening more. Also, special attention will be given to accident sites while installing radar.



- Five state officials were sent to Bengaluru for training in this regard. Now after training in Delhi on September 29-30, they will submit their full report to the government, so that the case of over speed in road accidents can be reduced.
- Over speed is believed to be the biggest cause of road accidents on national highways (NHs) in Bihar. In 2021, most of the accidents on NH-31, NH-28, NH-30 and NH-57 in the state took place.
- The most dangerous of these is NH-31. 644 road accidents occurred on this NH passing through Nawada, Bihar Sharif, Patna, Begusarai, Khagaria, Purnia and Kishangani, in which 520 died. There were 515 accidents in which 443 people died on NH-28 passing through Begusarai, Muzaffarpur and Gopalganj. A total of 3285 accidents took place in NH in Bihar.

New Eco-Tourism Spots will be Built in Bihar

Why In News?

On September 21, 2022, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar instructed the officials to create new eco-tourism spots in the state in a departmental review meeting.

Key Points

- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has given the task of creating new eco-tourism spots in the state to Forest and Environment Minister Tej Pratap Yadav.
- > The Chief Minister directed the officials to select other places in addition to the tourist places that have been developed in Bihar. Also, work to develop it as a tourist destination.
- The Chief Minister said that after the bifurcation of Jharkhand from Bihar, the green cover area of the state was reduced to nine percent. In the year 2012, Hariyali Mission was started, under which a target of planting 24 crore saplings was set, in which 22 crore saplings were planted. The Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali campaign was launched in the year 2019. In this, a target has been set to plant more and more saplings in all the districts.
- The green cover area of the state has now increased to 15 percent due to plantation of large number of saplings. The Chief Minister said that to increase the green cover area of the state to at least 17 percent, plantation should be done faster.

East Champaran got First Rank in Second **Dose of Covid Vaccination**

Why In News?

> According to the data released by the state health committee on September 21, 2022, East Champaran ranks first in Bihar in the second dose of the Covid vaccination drive released by the government to control Covid.

Key Points

- According to the data released by the State Health Committee, Darbhanga has been ranked second, Kaimur in third place and Gaya in fourth place. In the first dose of Covid vaccination, Siwan is at the first place, while Purnia is second and East Champaran is third.
- The data on Covid vaccination released by the districtwise state health committee is from January 16, 2021 to September 20, 2022.
- According to the data, a total of 37,86,790 people were given phase II vaccination in East Champaran. In East Champaran, including both the first and second doses, 85,11,745 doses were given to the people. According to statistics, males are 43,18,699 and female are 41,91,150 in number. The third gender has also been vaccinated, whose number is 1896.
- According to the data, so far 38,51,421 people have been given booster dose in the first phase and 37,88,632 people in the second phase. Apart from this, precaution doses have been given to 8,71,675 people. The booster dose vaccination drive is still on.
- It is known that in the East Champaran district which has a population of about 50 lakh, 351 people died during the Corona period, but since vaccination, there has been a break on it.

Patna Ranks Second among Cities with Warehousing (warehouse) availability

Why in News?

> Patna in Bihar has been ranked second among the cities with warehousing availability in the 'India



Warehousing Market Report-2022' released by international organization Knight Frank India recently.

Key Points

- Among the cities with warehousing availability in 2022 as compared to financial year 2021, Patna has overtaken cities like Guwahati, Jaipur, Ludhiana etc. in this race. In Patna, 9 lakh (0.9 million) square feet of space has been created for warehousing in 2022 compared to financial year 2021.
- ➤ Bhubaneswar city has been in the first place with a growth rate of 52.7 per cent. In third place is Siliguri with a growth rate of 148 per cent.
- According to the 'India Warehousing Market Report-2022' released by international organization Knight Frank India, Patna has achieved a growth rate of 309 percent in this sector in the financial year 2022.
- The unorganised market of warehousing is rapidly developing within a radius of 35 km around Patna. The warehousing cluster is developing in Hajipur area south of Patna-Gaya road, west of NH 922 and east of NH 31 and 20 km north of Patna.
- Areas like Bihta, Gaurichak, Fatuha, Zero Mile, Didarganj and Khagaul of Patna have the highest rate of expansion. Warehouses of companies like Coca Cola, Flipkart, GSK, Pepsi etc. are present around Patna.

Bihar Investors Meet-2022

Why In News?

On September 29, 2022, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the Bihar Investors Meet-2022 at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Investors meet has been organized for the first time after the formation of the Grand Alliance government in Bihar.

Key Points

- Many industrialists including Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and Industries Minister Sameer Kumar were involved in this event being organized by the Industries Department at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.
- > In this event, information was given to the industrialists about the initiatives being taken by the government to invest in industries.
- In the program, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that all facilities will be provided to promote industries. Infrastructure in Bihar has been repaired. The policy is being made keeping everything in mind. The problems faced in setting up industries will be resolved immediately.
- Earlier, As industries minister in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, Shahnawaz Hussain had organized investors' meets in Hyderabad and Delhi. A few months ago, 170 companies from across the country, including 30 big companies, participated in the Bihar Investors Meet held at Hotel Taj Mansingh in Delhi. It was decided to hold similar events in other states as well.
- It is noteworthy that Bihar is fast emerging as an investment destination. Industrialists from all over the country and abroad are looking for investment opportunities here. Along with policy reforms, the Bihar government is also giving attractive incentives to the investors.

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